

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fabric comprising a fabric substrate and a plurality of guard plate assemblies affixed to the fabric substrate in a spaced relationship to each other, each guard plate assembly including a first layer of material affixed to the fabric substrate and a second layer of material joined to the first layer of material on a surface opposite the fabric substrate.
2. The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material of each guard plate assembly completely covers the surface of the corresponding first layer of material.
3. The fabric of claim 1 wherein second layer of material of some of the guard plate assemblies does not completely cover the surface of the corresponding first layer of material.
4. The fabric of claim 1 wherein some of the gaps between the guard plate assemblies include material corresponding to the second layer of material.
5. The fabric of claim 4 wherein some of the gaps are filled with material corresponding to the second layer of material.
6. The fabric of claim 1 and further comprising a second plurality of guard plate assemblies affixed to

the fabric substrate, each guard plate assembly of the second plurality having an upper surface formed from a material different than the material of the second layer.

7. The fabric of claim 6 wherein the upper surface of each of the second plurality of guard plate assemblies is formed from the first material.

8. The fabric of claim 1 wherein the guard plate assemblies include a third layer of material joined to a surface of the second layer of material, the third layer of material being different than the second layer of material.

9. The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material has a surface property that has higher friction than the first material.

10. The fabric of claim 1 wherein the second layer of material has a surface property that is more resistive to wear than the first layer of material.

11. A method of making a fabric comprising the steps of:

bonding spaced apart guard plates formed of a resin on a fabric substrate; and

coating an upper surface of each of the guard plates with a second material that is different than the resin.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein affixing includes printing the resin on the fabric substrate and at least partially curing the resin.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein coating includes printing the second material on the upper surface.

14. The method of claim 13 and further comprising coating an upper surface of the second material of each of the guard plates.